

Dear FCC Commissioners,

My name is Matthew Printz, I am a journalism student at the University of Texas at Arlington, and I am writing to comment on the growing problem of a lack of local broadcasting.

National corporate ownership is a scourge against the American people. The effective monopolies created by corporations like Clear Channel not only decreases the choice that the public has when choosing a broadcast station, but also limits the amount of free speech available to the public.

Since January, many radio stations have instituted corporate mandated "Zero-Tolerance" policies. Instead of allowing each community to choose what would be considered indecent in their own community, people who work across the country are mandating what can and cannot be said on the airwaves. Often, people outside the broadcasting area have control over the "dump" button.

On the other hand, "local" radio stations are increasingly playing national music playlists. These playlists are more often bumping local music off the air, favoring musicians from across the country. Ten years ago, I recall vividly cheering on my favorite bands as they got their singles on the radio. Many of these local musicians were picked up due to their radio play and became famous worldwide. Now, however, pressure is increasingly put on local DJs to play only what the national corporation tells them to, greatly damaging the local music scene in every community.

In summation, the control that national broadcast has over the local community is damaging to that community. By allowing only a select few of individuals to decide what is best for every community across the country, compounded by the fact that these people often have never visited most of these communities, stifles localism and the rights of citizens.

Thank you,  
Matthew Printz